



# ANC TODAY

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## Conversations *with the* **President**



# The passage of time has not diminished our commitment to justice and reconciliation

**ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

**AT THE TRC HOUSING REPARATIONS LAUNCH CEREMONY**

NDWEDWE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

**I**t is a great honour to be here today with the community of Ndwedwe to witness a milestone in our long journey towards justice and reconciliation.

Today, we are marking the implementation of regulations that allow victims of apartheid identified through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process to receive housing assistance from the state.

This reflects our commitment as a country to recognising and healing the divisions of our past, and to honouring all those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land.

We are marking this milestone almost exactly 30 years after the first public hearing of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was held in East London on the 15th of April 1996.

The passage of time has not diminished our commitment to justice and reconciliation. We remain determined to ensure that the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is completed.

This place, Ndwedwe, occupies a place of profound historical significance.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Ndwedwe was one of the

areas in KwaZulu-Natal most affected by political violence.

People were forced to flee their homes. Homes were burned and property was destroyed. Many innocent lives were lost. Families were rendered homeless and broken up.

Many people lost their livelihoods and access to their land.

The effects of the violence lasted for many years and some still persist to this day.

When the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established in 1995 to uncover the atrocities

that had been committed under apartheid, survivors from Ndwedwe testified at the hearings.

A number of them were elderly victims, who are now in their eighties and nineties.

The TRC documented hundreds of cases of arson, assaults, killings and forced removals in Ndwedwe and formally recognised a number of residents as victims of gross human rights violations.

Ndwedwe stands as a powerful site of memory and survival, representing rural communities whose suffering often received less public attention but was no less devastating.

As a country, we understand that truth alone is not sufficient to repair the harm that was done. We know that reconciliation cannot be enduring without reparations.

The provision of reparations is not just an act of goodwill. It is a moral obligation and a vital part of restoring people's dignity.

Even though the democratic state is not responsible for the atrocities committed in the name of apartheid, it is up to the democratic state to make a decisive break with the hurts of the past if we are to move forward together.

The final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission made a number of recommendations to the President on possible measures that could be taken to restore the dignity of victims. These measures included once-off grants, medical benefits and other forms of social assistance, the construction of monuments, and other forms of community rehabilitation.

The report recommended that the state give special attention to housing assistance in areas such as Ndwedwe, where violence resulted in mass destruction of property and displacement.

The housing assistance regulations that we published in January 2026 flow directly from these recommendations.

The regulations set out how housing assistance will be provided to beneficiaries who have been formally identified and verified through the TRC process. The confirmed beneficiaries are eligible to receive a once-off grant for housing assistance or the construction of a new home.

The cost of the reparations will be borne by the President's Fund that was established in terms of the TRC Act.

Through these regulations we are giving effect to our longstanding commitment as government to

reparations for victims of apartheid, as well as to our obligations under the Constitution to advance the right to human dignity.

Our Constitution places a clear obligation on the state to take reasonable legislative and other measures, within available resources, to progressively realise everyone's right of access to adequate housing.

Our Constitution places housing as a fundamental pillar of human dignity, safety and security.

As of March 2026, the total number of approved listed beneficiaries in Ndwedwe stands at 220. The symbolic cheques that are being handed over today represent R40 million in cumulative assistance being provided to the verified beneficiaries to build a home or improve their existing homes.

To respect their safety and privacy, representatives of traditional



**TRC HOUSING REPARATIONS**

The ANC welcomes the launch of the TRC Housing Reparations by President Cyril Ramaphosa in Ndwedwe, KwaZulu- Natal.

These reparations are the recommendations of the TRC to honour those who suffered at the hands of apartheid, heal the divisions of the past and to provide shelter to those displaced by the heinous system which was declared a crime against humanity.

**PROMOTING NATIONAL HEALING**

leaders will be receiving them on behalf of the beneficiaries today.

A total of 114 approved beneficiaries in Ndwedwe have already been paid out approximately R21 million by the President's Fund. This is a nationwide programme and to date we have received applications from victims across the country.

Government is committed to ensure that this process provides some justice for communities that are still bearing the cost of what happened in our past. And that it provides security to the survivors and their descendants.

I would like to thank the community of Ndwedwe for your patience, as well as our traditional and community leaders who have travelled this journey with us.

We know that it has been a long road. There have been many challenges and difficulties.

I acknowledge the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development for the dignified manner in which it has engaged with the communities through the various roadshows and public participation processes.

Housing is not simply about shelter. It represents stability, dignity and belonging to a community.

As we commemorate 30 years of our Constitution this year, we affirm that our future is built on remembering our past and correcting the injustices that were committed.

United by one Constitution, inspired by one shared destiny, we recommit to completing the work of nation building that was begun in 1994.

The South African experience has been adapted for truth commissions in a number of other countries.

The emphasis of the TRC on narrative truth, restorative justice and public participation shaped international thinking on how societies confront and manage political transitions.

Our efforts align with the objectives of the African Union's Decade of Reparations, which calls on African states and the international community to complete the work of restoration that political liberation began.

This has been further reinforced by the United Nations General Assembly's landmark resolution of 25 March 2026, that declared the transatlantic trafficking and racialised enslavement of Africans as the gravest crime against humanity.

It furthermore affirmed the role of

reparations as a necessary step toward remedying historical injustice.

This resolution echoes the TRC's central premise: that truth must lead to justice and that justice must include material repair if reconciliation is to be meaningful.

The handover of these symbolic cheques today affirms our belief that reconciliation and reparations must be concrete and tangible.

As we celebrate 30 years of the Constitution, we are reminded that political liberation was never the final destination. It was the beginning of a longer journey towards social justice.

**The task of building a truly united, just and equal society continues.**

**We will not rest until all our people can live in peace, in security and in comfort.**



**TRC HOUSING REPARATIONS**

**The ANC applauds the President for acting in accordance with the recommendations of the TRC to restore the dignity of those identified as the eligible beneficiaries of the reparations.**

**These reparations include once-off grants, medical benefits, rehabilitation and construction of monuments.**

**BUILDING OUR OWN HUMANITY**

# The ANC **welcomes the Ceasefire** and calls for a **Sustained Peace Process** in the Middle East

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

**T**HE African National Congress welcomes the announcement of a temporary ceasefire in the Middle East, which offers a moment of relief to the people of the region and to the broader international community. Any cessation of hostilities that preserves human life and creates space for dialogue is a necessary and positive development in a context marked by immense suffering and instability.

The ANC calls for a permanent cessation of hostilities and the urgent commencement of a credible, inclusive and sustained process of dialogue. It further emphasises that a temporary pause in conflict cannot be a substitute for a durable, just and peaceful solution that addresses the root causes of conflict and affirms the rights, dignity and security of all affected peoples.

The ongoing conflict has had far-reaching consequences beyond the region placing strain on global economic stability, contributing to rising food, fuel and energy costs that disproportionately affect developing economies, and primarily the poor and the working-class communities.

The ANC reaffirms its long-standing position that dialogue remains the most effective instru-

ment for the peaceful resolution of conflict. We therefore support all international efforts aimed at de-escalation and negotiations, including initiatives led by countries such as Pakistan and other members of the international community who have acted in pursuit of peace. These efforts must be strengthened and sustained to ensure that the current ceasefire evolves into a lasting settlement.

Guided by the principles of the United Nations Charter and our own history of negotiated transition, the ANC will continue to advocate for peace, multilateral cooperation and respect for international law.

We stand in solidarity with all peoples affected by conflict and reaffirm our commitment to a world defined by justice, peace and the sovereign equality of nations.



**THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT**

**The ANC calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities in the Middle East.**

**We believe that a permanent ceasefire will culminate in everlasting solutions to the conflict gripping the Middle East and its catastrophic impact on the global economy, peace and stability.**


 2024: The Year of Decisive Action to Fix Local Government and Transform the Economy  


# The ANC celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic

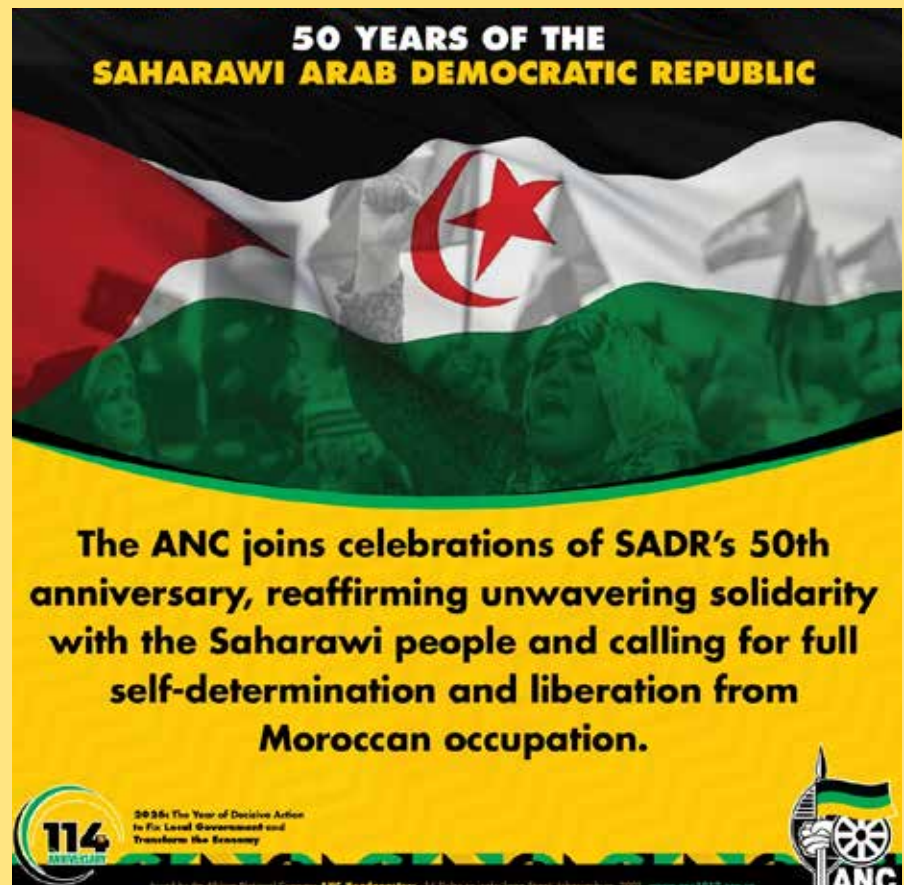
**T**HE African National Congress joins the Polisario Front, a fraternal sister liberation movement representing the Saharawi People in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic.

This milestone is a reaffirmation of a just struggle waged by the Saharawi people against colonial occupation and for their inalienable right to self-determination.

Fifty years on, the continued occupation of Western Sahara by the Kingdom of Morocco remains a direct affront to international law and the unfinished task of the total decolonisation of Africa.

The ANC delegation led by the First Deputy Secretary-General, Cde Nomvula Mokonyane conveyed a clear message of solidarity, support and congratulations to the people of Western Sahara and to the leadership of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic affirming the enduring bonds forged in the trenches of struggle.

President Oliver Tambo taught us that the struggle of the peo-



ple of Western Sahara is inseparable from the broader struggle against colonial domination and that it is a struggle that demands principled international solidarity and decisive action.

The continued denial of the Saharawi people's right to determine their own future, despite successive resolutions of multilateral institutions exposes the contradictions of a global order

that selectively applies justice.

The ANC reaffirms its steadfast solidarity with the people of Western Sahara and repeats its call for the long-overdue referendum on self-determination. The self-determination of Western Sahara is non-negotiable and we remain clear that until it is achieved, the decolonisation of Africa remains incomplete.

# Why the **2025 Green Drop Report** is a catalyst for a **Water-Secure Future**

■ By **PEMMY MAJODINA**

**T**HE release of the 2025 Green Drop Report is a moment of profound national introspection. As we gathered in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality to dissect the data, there was no room for sugar-coating or evasion. This report is a mirror - a stark, high-definition reflection of our wastewater management systems. And while the reflection reveals some deep and weathered lines, it also illuminates a path toward a rejuvenated, water-secure South Africa.

This report is a clarion call. The 2025 assessment shows that the number of wastewater systems in a critical state has climbed to 47%. We have seen a decline in “excellent” performers, and only 14 systems achieved the prestigious Green Drop certification this year. These numbers represent aging pipes, under-maintained treatment plants, and the heavy toll of organized criminality and vandalism. We acknowledge these weaknesses not to wallow in them, but to anchor our solutions in reality.

However, looking at this report and seeing only “doom and gloom” is a failure of perspective. If the Green Drop Report is a mirror reflecting our challenges, it is equally a compass pointing toward our potential. Beneath the headlines of the “critical” systems lies a story of resilience, reform, and a national spirit that refuses



to settle for mediocrity.

While the wastewater sector faces a steep climb, our drinking water, the lifeblood of our homes, is showing heartening signs of stabilization and growth. The Blue Drop Progress Assessment reveals that low-risk drinking water systems have increased to nearly 62%. In our major metropolitan areas, the water coming from the taps remains a source of national pride, consistently meeting the stringent SANS 241 requirements. This proves a vital point: we know how to manage water at a world-class level. The blueprint for success exists right here on our soil.

Furthermore, provinces like Mpumalanga and the North West

have recorded notable improvements. These gains represent the hard work of unsung heroes - the engineers, process controllers and scientists who remain at their posts, innovating under pressure. To the teams behind the 14 Green Drop certifications, I wish to say: You are the vanguard. You have proven that excellence is not a matter of geography or budget alone, but of leadership, discipline, and technical pride.

We must view our current “water crisis” not as an endpoint, but as an inflection point. Under the leadership of President Cyril Ramaphosa, the National Water Crisis Committee (Water-Com) has elevated water security to the very top of the national agenda. This is a game-changer.

We are no longer working in silos. We are integrating national, provincial, and local spheres to dismantle the barriers that have historically slowed us down.

The past month alone has been a testament to this “*construction over complaint*” philosophy. During National Water Month, we didn’t just talk about infrastructure; we handed it over. From the refurbishment of 22 sanitation projects in Matjhabeng to the launch of the Bhongweni Water Supply Project in KwaZulu-Natal and the Piet Retief works in Mpumalanga, the physical landscape of South African water is changing. These projects are the tangible manifestations of our commitment to restoring human dignity.

We are moving forward with a strategy born from the 2025 Water and Sanitation Indaba, a roadmap designed to turn the findings of the Green Drop Report into a historical footnote. Central to this mission is the strengthening of our delivery and implementation models. We are moving away from fragmented planning and toward a system where infrastructure programmes are executed with consistency and absolute accountability. By refining how we build, we ensure that every rand spent results in a functional, long-lasting asset for the community.

Parallel to this, we are revolutionizing how the sector is funded and sustained. We are mobilizing a wide range of financing options to bridge the investment gap, but we are doing so with an eye on long-term viability. It is not enough to simply build a plant. We must ensure the financial structures are in place to keep it running for decades. This includes enhancing our technical and operational capacity, particularly at the



municipal level. We recognize that infrastructure without skilled hands is merely a monument to waste, which is why we are prioritizing the recruitment and retention of qualified professionals who can maintain these systems to the highest standards.

Furthermore, we are deepening our institutional reforms to ensure that governance is never treated as an optional extra. The Water Services Amendment Bill will provide the legislative teeth needed to hold failing municipalities accountable and, where necessary, require them to contract capable, licensed water services providers. This structural discipline is bolstered by a firm commitment to confronting the criminality and corruption that has plagued the sector. We are treating the theft and sabotage of water infrastructure as a direct assault on the constitutional rights of our people, and we are meeting it with the full force of the law.

The challenges identified in the 2025 Green Drop Report are significant, but they are not insurmountable. Decline is not our destiny. We are a nation that has overcome the “impossible” time and again. Why should our water systems be any different?

By laying bare the state of our wastewater, we are inviting every South African to be part of the

solution. We are calling on municipal managers to restore discipline, on engineers to reclaim their pride of place, and on citizens to protect the infrastructure in their neighborhoods.

The 2025 Green Drop Report is the turning point. It has stripped away complacency and left us with a clear choice: either to drift into dysfunction or to rise in a collective surge of restoration. We choose to rise.

We see a future where our rivers run clear, where every treatment plant is a beacon of engineering excellence, and where the “*Green Drop*” is the standard, not the exception. This is more than a policy goal. It is a sacred duty to our children and a commitment to the dignity of every South African.

The tide is turning. The work has begun. We will rebuild, we will restore and we will secure our water future. Let us move forward with unwavering determination and protect our water resources with every means at our disposal.

The time for South Africa’s water renaissance is not tomorrow. It is now.

**Pemmy Majodina** is a member of the ANC National Executive Committee and Minister of Water and Sanitation.

# SOLOMON MAHLANGU: “Mama, Don’t Cry – Tell My People I Love Them.”

■ By **CHINA DODOVU**

The 6th of April is a very terrible day in the annals of our country, bringing the memories of our historic past. Before the advent of the New Democratic dispensation in 1994, the day was declared by the apartheid government as a public holiday called the Founders Day (Stigtingdag) to celebrate the first arrival of Jan Van Riebeeck in 1652 with the three ships i.e. Drommedaris, Goede Hoop and Reijger.

To mark the 300th Anniversary of the arrival of the Dutch in South Africa, specifically at Table Mountain in Cape Town, in 1952 under Prime Minister DF Malan, the apartheid regime held the Riebeeck Festival to honour Jan Van Riebeeck, a disgraced racist who was sent by his agency, the Dutch East Indian Company (DEIC) to South Africa after he was dismissed from his previous positions due to theft and for conducting trade for his own personal account.

In an act of political murder, on the 6th of April 1979, Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, one of the outstanding trained soldiers of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the military wing of the African National Congress (ANC), was executed in the gallows by the apartheid regime at the Pretoria Central Prison after he was found guilty of murder

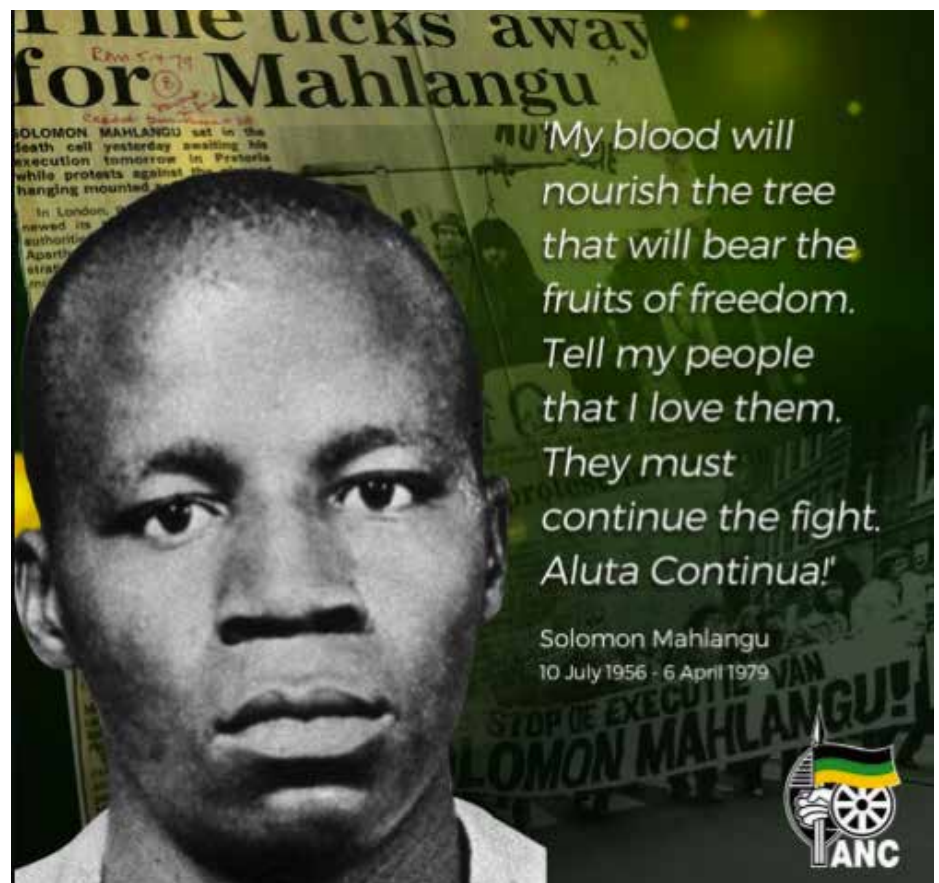
by the Rand Supreme Court.

To this day, what still remains painful about his execution is its deliberate choice to coincide with the 327th Anniversary of the arrival of Jan Van Riebeeck where the white people of our country were celebrating the perpetuation of colonialism, racism and apartheid.

The death of Solomon Mahlangu sparked a worldwide outrage,

condemnation and protests after the United Nations Security Council tried unsuccessfully to convince the apartheid regime to spare his life.

The story of Solomon Mahlangu is one laced with bravery and unshakable determination to liberate his own country from the shackles of apartheid. It is a story filled with blood, sweat and tears; a story filled with dreams, hopes and resolute conviction from a





man who fought to the end with his boots on.

As a young student activist of the South African Students Congress (SASCO), on the 6th of April 1992, I was part of a committee which organised his commemorative event at the Technikon Northern Transvaal (TNT) where we invited the late TingTing Masango to share the life and times of Solomon Mahlangu with the students.

They were both MK soldiers and TingTing Masango was in a similar situation because during the Delmas Treason Trial, together with Joseph Makhura, Neo Potsane and Jabu Masina, they were also sentenced to death which was commuted to life imprisonment and later released as political prisoners.

As I tearfully listened to TingTing Masango delivering a keynote speech, to this day, nothing has erased the memory of what he taught us and what I subsequently learnt about Solomon Mahlangu.

As I came to know, Solomon

Mahlangu was born on the 10th of July 1956 in Mamelodi, Pretoria. He was the second son of Martha Mahlangu, a domestic worker, who took sole responsibility for his upbringing. He attended school at Mamelodi High, up to Standard 8 and due to ongoing student riots, he could not finish matriculation.

Just after the June 16 1976 uprisings where students across the country revolted against the system of apartheid, Solomon Mahlangu joined the vast army of young revolutionaries who swelled the ranks of MK and received military training in Angola and Mozambique in order to advance the struggle for national liberation.

A year later on the 11th of June 1977, Solomon Mahlangu returned to South Africa as a trained MK combatant, heavily armed, through Swaziland to assist with the student protests and the first Anniversary of June 16.

Two days later on the 13th of June, together with Johannes Motloutung and George Mahlangu, they waged a ferocious gun bat-

tle with the police who accosted them in Goch Street, Johannesburg.

In the ensuing skirmish with the police, two civilians were killed while two others were wounded. Solomon Mahlangu and Johannes Motloutung were arrested and George Mahlangu managed to escape.

After the police captured them both, they were brutally beaten to an extent that Motloutung suffered severe brain damage and was declared unfit to stand trial.

Solomon Mahlangu's political trial commenced on the 7th of November 1977 and lasted until the 1st of March 1978 where he was charged with two counts of murder and several charges under the Terrorism Act.

Mahlangu pleaded not guilty to the charges preferred against him. While Judge CDJ Theron accepted that it was Johannes Motloutung and not Solomon Mahlangu who was responsible for the actual killings, he nevertheless charged him with common purpose.

The judge found him guilty and sentenced him to death where he said *“Mahlangu must be hanged by his neck until he is dead”*.

During his trial, Solomon Mahlangu’s attorney was Priscilla Jana who after the dawn of democracy in 1994 became a member of parliament and later the ambassador of South Africa in The Netherlands. His advocate was Ismail Mohamed who became the first Chief Justice of the new South Africa.

Before going to the gallows, this gallant freedom fighter Solomon Mahlangu said this historic famous words to his mother: ***“Mama, Mama don’t cry. Tell my people I love them and that they must continue the fight. My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom. Aluta continua.”***

The execution of Solomon Mahlangu inspired the youth of our land who by emulating his act of heroism and example, in the same year formed the Congress of South African Students (COSAS) and Azanian Student Organization (AZASO) as vanguards for student struggles at secondary and tertiary institutions, respectively.

What is clear is that Solomon Mahlangu paid a supreme price and the heaviest of sacrifices for his abiding love of his country and for his belief in the fundamental right of every person to equality, dignity and freedom and like as he said, his blood has truly nourished the soil which bore the fruits of freedom we are enjoying today.



He was a freedom fighter of a rare breed that executed his mission with great precision. He was brave and determined, ready to proudly confirm his part in the battle for freedom and ready to offer an example of unprecedented self-sacrifice to ensure that South Africa becomes genuinely democratic and nonracial.

After he was executed, the ANC hailed Solomon Mahlangu as a hero of the revolutionary struggle in South Africa. Subsequently in 1981, it named a school after him, the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO) in Tanzania in honour of his courage and memory.

In 1993, he was reburied in Mamelodi where a Solomon Mahlangu Square was officially opened and dedicated to his memory. In 2005 President Thabo Mbeki posthumously awarded him the Order of Mendi for Bravery in Gold for his bravery and for sacrificing his life for freedom and democracy in South Africa.

As we mark the 47th Anniversary since the execution of Solomon Mahlangu, his organisation is facing serious difficulties. It suffers from an existential crisis due to warning signs of *“sins of*

*incumbency”* which were identified by the Mafikeng conference in 1997. As a result, the ANC only managed to secure 40% of the votes in the last elections.

As we speak today, the ANC is increasingly losing credibility and the trust of the people because of challenges such as poor service delivery, corruption and state capture, and poor management of public resources.

The ANC seems to have lost touch with key constituencies and the calibre of many of its leaders are not like Solomon Mahlangu. They lack basic leadership, organising and communication skills, and they are unable to mobilise and motivate activists, civil society, supporters and voters.

Lately, it has become easier to be a leader of the ANC and there is a lack of revolutionary morality, good ethics, discipline and the understanding of the core values of the ANC. As we remember and pay tribute to Solomon Mahlangu as a soldier who fell in the battle to liberate South Africa, we must reaffirm through our actions, our solemn commitment to build the kind of society for which he dedicated his life.

Today more than ever before we need comrades of the courage of Solomon Mahlangu to correct the ills of our society. We need comrades who will be generous in spirit and be deeply concerned about the future of South Africa, especially at the time when his beloved movement, the ANC is facing so many political challenges.

***Aluta continua!***

# Recapitalising Public Health: The Missing Pillar of NHI Success

■ By **BANDILE MASUKU**

**T**HE enactment of the National Health Insurance (NHI) represents a watershed commitment to universal healthcare and the constitutional guarantee that no South African should be denied care because of where they live or what they earn. Yet legislation, however progressive, cannot heal a system that has been structurally weakened for decades. If NHI is to succeed, South Africa must confront an uncomfortable truth: our public health departments require bold recapitalisation and deep reform now, not later.

Across the country, provincial health departments are buckling under massive accruals and unpaid obligations stemming from escalating medical litigation, collapsing infrastructure, deferred maintenance, and chronic under-investment. At the same time, the country faces the perverse reality of unemployed nurses and doctors while clinics and hospitals operate with skeletal staff. This is not merely a governance failure; it is a betrayal of the millions who rely entirely on the public health system.

When Eskom teetered on collapse, the state intervened because electricity is deemed too strategic to fail. When SAA buckled under debt, government acted because national connectivity



matters. When the SABC was rescued, it was justified as protecting democracy and social cohesion. Whatever the controversies, the political principle is clear: essential national institutions are recapitalised when failure threatens the public good.

Public healthcare is even more essential. Yet health departments are expected to implement NHI while carrying historic debt, decaying facilities and paralysed human resource pipelines. This contradiction will sink the reform if it is not addressed head on.

Health departments require bailouts of similar scale and intent, but with sharper accountability. The lessons from Eskom and SAA are instructive: bailouts work when money is tied to governance reform, professional

management, financial discipline and consequence management. Eskom's operational stabilisation did not begin with cash alone, but with leadership changes and tighter controls. SAA's re emergence followed restructuring and performance accountability. Health must follow the same path with even greater urgency.

A once off recapitalisation must settle accruals, ring fence medico legal liabilities, repair and modernise hospitals, procure equipment, and aggressively employ sidelined healthcare workers. This must be coupled with iron clad governance systems, transparent procurement, real time financial monitoring, strengthened medico legal risk control, and zero tolerance for corruption or negligence. Without this reset, NHI will not survive.



However, an activist commitment to health reform must also confront a second truth: the sustainability of NHI depends on citizens as much as on the state.

Emergency wards are overwhelmed by trauma from motor vehicle accidents, assaults, stabbings and gunshot wounds, often driven by alcohol abuse and violent social norms. These are not unavoidable tragedies; they are choices with massive fiscal and human costs. Every preventable injury consumes operating theatres, intensive care beds and skilled personnel that could save mothers, children and the chronically ill.

Lifestyle diseases like diabetes, hypertension, obesity and heart disease now dominate the burden of disease. Many cancers are detected late because people do not screen or seek care early. These conditions are largely manageable and preventable. Health is not meant to be produced only in hospitals; it should be produced in communities, homes and habits.

Evidence tells us that large scale

behavioural change is possible. During the electricity crisis, citizens altered consumption patterns, embraced efficiency and invested in alternatives like solar power. A culture of collective responsibility emerged because

the crisis was framed honestly as a national emergency.

NHI demands the same social compact. Protecting clinics from vandalism, respecting healthcare workers, using services responsibly, reducing alcohol harm, rejecting violence and embracing prevention are all acts of patriotism.

NHI should not be seen as charity, or a technocratic experiment. It is a collective national project, that demands everyone play their part in ensuring its success. The state must invest boldly and govern with competence.

Citizens must act responsibly and consciously.

Together, we can build a public health system worthy of a democratic South Africa and finally stop short changing our people.

## NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE (NHI)



### Who will NHI cover?

Every South African, permanent resident, refugee and prisoner will be able to register for NHI. All children born and living in South Africa will qualify for NHI. Everyone else will qualify for treatment for emergencies and diseases that can cause outbreaks. (note: those working for SANDF will still have a separate fund)

### How does it work?

The NHI will buy quality health care services on behalf of the people of South Africa. These services will be provided by health care professionals and providers in the public and private health care facilities and will integrate them into one health care system that serves the needs of all South Africans.

NHI will combine the many public and private health care funds into one fund that will pay for everyone when they need to access health care using the advantage of the size of the fund to reduce health care costs.





## From Provincial Conferences to Organisational Renewal: **What the ANC Must Do Now**

■ By **FAIEZ JACOBS**

**T**HE provincial conference cycle of late March 2026 has given the ANC a clear message. Limpopo showed that consensus can still be built. Mpumalanga showed that continuity can still be disciplined. The Eastern Cape showed, painfully, what happens when process legitimacy weakens and unresolved disputes overtake political management. The NEC had already directed that due provincial and regional conferences be concluded by the end of March 2026 in preparation for the 2026 local government elections, and the

Eastern Cape PEC has since indicated that its conference must be reconvened before the end of April after court and internal dispute processes are concluded.

These are not three separate stories. They are one warning delivered in three different forms.

The warning is this: the ANC does not mainly suffer from a conference problem. It suffers from an organisational credibility problem. Where credibility is strong, consensus is possible. Where discipline is strong, conti-

nunity can stabilise the movement. Where credibility weakens, every dispute becomes political dynamite, every grievance becomes a court risk, and every conference becomes vulnerable to collapse. That is why the lesson of this cycle is not about who won which slate. It is about whether the ANC can still produce leadership through processes that members regard as fair, disciplined, constitutional and worthy of trust.

This is where we must be brutally honest with ourselves. A conference is not successful because

delegates arrive, credentials are counted, and speeches are made. A conference is successful only when the branches, regions, and contending forces all know that the route to that conference was legitimate. If members do not trust the process, then even a technically completed conference can produce a politically damaged outcome. If they do trust it, then even a hard-fought contest can leave the organisation intact.

That is the real distinction between Limpopo, Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape.

Limpopo teaches that consensus is still possible. Reporting around the conference showed that regional and provincial actors moved toward a unity outcome rather than allowing a bruising contest to deepen division. That matters. In a movement burdened by factional fatigue, the ability to consolidate leadership around a negotiated arrangement has practical value. But we must not romanticise it. Consensus is only valuable if it leads to better conduct, better branches, better governance, and better service to the people.

Consensus without accountability is merely elite accommodation.

Mpumalanga teaches that discipline is still a political asset. The province re-elected Cde Mandela Ndlovu and signalled that it would not be stampeded by premature 2027 lobbying. That restraint matters. A province that can hold its line, resist noise, and preserve collective discipline has leverage.

But continuity is not innocence. A returned leadership no longer enjoys the excuse of being new.



It must now prove that continuity means implementation, humility, and visible improvement in the lives of the people.

The Eastern Cape teaches the harshest lesson of all: when confidence in process weakens, the organisation loses control of the terrain. The halted conference, the court intervention, the move into abeyance, and the PEC's subsequent recommitment to concluding disputes before reconvening all point to one truth: unresolved legitimacy questions were allowed to mature too far. Once that happens, courts enter, narratives harden, camps deepen, and the authority of the organisation is diminished. The problem is not merely factional conflict. The problem is the weakening of internal constitutional confidence.

So what is required now?

Not more commentary.

Not more blame.

Not more moral theatre.

A plan.

### 1. Rebuild the authority of the branch

Renewal will fail if the branch remains a seasonal voting machine.

The branch must again become the primary site of political education, ethical formation, community connection, and leadership scrutiny. This means every branch must keep proper records, maintain updated membership systems, run regular meetings, and log disputes early. It also means branches must stop discussing only loyalty and start discussing capability.

Before supporting any comrade for office, branches should ask five practical questions.

- i) Can this comrade unite?
- ii) Can this comrade listen?
- iii) Can this comrade manage conflict?
- iv) Can this comrade account truthfully?
- v) Can this comrade serve without entitlement?

If branches do not ask these questions, they will continue to produce slates when they should be producing leaders.

## 2. Make regions the first line of prevention

Too many regional structures act as amplifiers of factions instead of guardians of organisational quality. This must change. Regions must identify weak branches, unresolved conflicts, and procedural risks months before conference season.

Every REC should maintain a simple internal risk map: stable branches, fragile branches, disputed branches, and branches requiring intervention. That one discipline would reduce many avoidable crises.

The movement should not only ask whether a region is politically aligned. It should ask whether that region is organisationally competent.

## 3. No conference without a legitimacy audit

This is the biggest practical lesson from the Eastern Cape.

The ANC must stop treating conference readiness as mainly logistical. A venue, a programme, a transport plan, and a delegate list are not enough. Every provincial and regional conference should require a formal legitimacy audit before convening. That audit should answer the following:

- How many disputes were lodged?
- How many were resolved?
- How many remain on appeal?
- Which branches remain contested?
- What legal risks exist?
- What confidence-building was done among aggrieved structures?

If those questions cannot be answered clearly, the conference is not ready.



## 4. Restore consensus-building as a discipline

Consensus-building must be rescued from two false meanings. It is not a stitched-up deal among elites.

And it is not the silencing of criticism. In ANC tradition, consensus-building means managing differences in a way that protects collective purpose and allows those who lose an argument to remain committed to the organisation.

This is strategically crucial. Where consensus-building fails, factions harden. Where factions harden, money politics deepens. Where money politics deepens, leadership becomes an investment rather than a responsibility. That is how moral decline enters organisational life.

We must therefore shift from slate-management to confidence-building. Strong leaders are not those who merely win numbers. They are those who leave even their opponents with enough trust to remain inside the discipline of the movement.

## 5. Intervene earlier, not later

The role of the NEC is not only

to step in when matters have already collapsed. It is to build a culture of prevention. If national intervention arrives only when comrades are already in court, then the organisation is governing late. The NEC should insist on earlier reporting, clearer compliance triggers, faster escalation of unresolved disputes, and firmer monitoring of conference preparedness.

National authority must not only be reactive. It must be constitutional, strategic and preventative.

## 6. Shift from personality politics to cadre quality

This is the deepest reform required.

The ANC cannot renew itself while branches are reduced to voting cattle, regions become factional warehouses, provinces become succession platforms, and leaders are measured more by whom they support than by what they can do. The movement must move decisively away from personality cults, herd mentality, intimidation, and money politics.

The standard must be simple and demanding: deploy the best available cadre.

Not the loudest.

Not the richest.

Not the most feared.

Not the most networked.

The best. Best must mean political maturity, ethical standing, organisational discipline, developmental capacity, and service orientation.

### 7. Build a new ethic of conduct

Structures alone will not save us without behavioural change. We need a new ethic of internal conduct.

Leaders must stop treating criticism as treason.

Members must stop assuming every defeat is conspiracy.

Secretaries must become guardians of process, not merely managers of mechanics.

Chairpersons must become custodians of unity, not only beneficiaries of numerical strength.

Treasurers must defend the organisation against money capture.

Political education must return to the centre.

Renewal is not only structural. It is moral and behavioural.

What must we now do and be? We must be less performative and more rigorous. Less factional and more constitutional. Less inward-looking and more people-centred. Less obsessed with positions and more serious about service. Less impressed by power and more demanding of capability.

And we must do five things immediately:

- Strengthen branch life.
- Diagnose disputes early.
- Audit conference legitimacy before convening.
- Intervene before collapse.
- Elevate cadre quality above factional arithmetic.

That is the path. Limpopo says unity can still be built. Mpumalanga says discipline still matters. Eastern Cape says legitimacy

cannot be postponed.

Taken together, they tell us that the ANC is not beyond recovery, but recovery will not come through slogans. It will come through standards, systems, conduct, and courage.

So let us not waste this moment. Let us not mock the Eastern Cape. Let us learn from it. Let us not romanticise Limpopo or Mpumalanga. Let us test them through delivery.

Let us not worship slates. Let us build institutions. Let us not deepen camps. Let us deepen cadre quality. Let us not chase positions. Let us chase trust.

The ANC is still bigger than personalities, bigger than factions, bigger than money, and bigger than temporary victories. But that truth will only live if we make it real in how we organise, how we choose leaders, and how we serve the people.

That is the task now. That is renewal in practice. That is what this conference cycle is telling us to do.



# The ANC is not a party, but a national idea that must not fail

■ By **GODFREY NKOSI**

I had every intention of attending the Easter Vigil. It is one of those sacred moments in the calendar that calls for stillness, for introspection, and for a disciplined engagement with matters that transcend the immediacy of daily life. Yet, as often happens in the life of a cadre, comrades intervened. What was meant to be a brief exchange became an extended sitting, the kind in which conversation stretches into the night, carried by memory, argument, laughter and reflection.

By the time I returned home, the body bore the unmistakable fatigue of a man inching closer to five decades on this earth. Sleep arrived, but it did not restore. I awoke before dawn, heavy with regret, both spiritual and physical. In that moment of half-conscious repentance, I found myself softly singing *uvukile uJesu*. It was, I suppose, an attempt at redemption.

My wife, however, did not share in this early morning awakening. She was not amused. The singing was deemed an unnecessary disturbance, and I was promptly and decisively removed from the bedroom. It is in that exile, seated in the quiet of the house while the world remained asleep, that I began to reflect deeply on a question that has occupied my mind for the better part of a week.



Why does South Africa still need the ANC? And more importantly, why is it that the ANC, understood not merely as an organisation but as an idea, is too significant to be allowed to fail?

To begin to answer this question, one must resist the temptation of shallow analysis. There is a growing tendency in contemporary discourse to reduce the African National Congress to its present electoral standing, or to the failures and excesses of some of its leaders. While criticism of the organisation is both necessary and legitimate, such a narrow framing is profoundly ahistorical. It strips the ANC of

its context and, in doing so, obscures its true significance.

The ANC was founded in 1912 under conditions of profound injustice. It emerged as a response to the systematic exclusion of the African majority from political life, the dispossession of land, and the deliberate erosion of human dignity. Its founding mission was not to participate in an unjust system, but to fundamentally transform it. It was, from its inception, a vehicle for the aspirations of the oppressed.

Over the course of more than a century, the ANC has occupied a unique position in the struggle for

justice, both within South Africa and globally. It has consistently aligned itself with the cause of the oppressed, offering solidarity to liberation movements across the African continent and beyond. In doing so, it became more than a national movement. It became a symbol of resistance, resilience and hope.

This historical role is not incidental. It is foundational. It explains why the ANC cannot simply be treated as interchangeable with other political formations that have emerged in the democratic era. These formations, whatever their merits, do not carry the same historical weight. They are products of a different moment, operating within a system that the ANC itself helped to create.

The role of the ANC in the dismantling of apartheid cannot be overstated. Apartheid was not merely a policy. It was a comprehensive system of oppression, designed to dehumanise and to entrench inequality. The transition to democracy in 1994 was therefore not a foregone conclusion. It was the result of sustained struggle, both internal and external, and of a negotiation process that required extraordinary political skill.

The ANC led this process with a clarity of purpose that prioritised the long-term stability of the country over short-term victory. It resisted the temptation of vengeance. It chose reconciliation over retribution. It navigated a path that avoided civil war and laid the foundation for a democratic state. This was not an act of weakness. It was an act of profound strength.

In the post-1994 period, the ANC assumed the immense responsibility of governance. The task be-

fore it was unprecedented. It had to transform a society that had been deliberately fragmented along racial, economic and social lines. It had to extend services to millions who had been excluded. It had to build institutions capable of sustaining democracy.

At the same time, it had to undertake the delicate work of nation-building. South Africa was not a natural nation in the conventional sense. It was a constructed entity, shaped by colonialism and apartheid. The ANC had to forge a sense of shared identity among people who had been systematically divided.

This work of knitting together a diverse nation remains one of the most significant achievements of the ANC. Despite the many challenges that the country faces, South Africa has not descended into large-scale conflict. The idea of a shared national project, fragile as it may sometimes appear, continues to hold.

It is here that one must confront an uncomfortable truth. No other political formation in South Africa

has demonstrated the same capacity to act as a unifying force. Many operate within narrower constituencies, defined by race, class or region. The ANC, by contrast, has historically functioned as a broad church, accommodating a wide range of perspectives while maintaining a commitment to the overall national interest.

This is not to suggest that the ANC is without fault. On the contrary, it is precisely because of its central role that its failures are so consequential. Issues of governance, corruption and internal factionalism have rightly attracted criticism. These are matters that must be confronted with honesty and urgency.

However, to conclude from these challenges that the ANC is dispensable is to misunderstand the nature of the organisation. The ANC is not merely a political party that can be replaced without consequence. It is a central pillar of the South African political system, carrying within it the historical memory and ideological foundations of the country's democratic project.



Equally significant is the ANC's consistent respect for democratic outcomes. In many parts of the world, ruling parties manipulate institutions to retain power. They reject electoral losses and resort to instability. The ANC, despite its dominance, has not followed this path. It has accepted electoral setbacks. It has participated in democratic processes without inciting dissent or undermining the constitutional order.

This commitment to democracy is not accidental. It is rooted in the ANC's own history as a movement that fought for political inclusion. Having struggled against a system that denied the majority a voice, the ANC understands the importance of preserving democratic space.

To say that South Africa needs the ANC is therefore not to make an electoral argument. It is not to suggest that the ANC must always govern. Rather, it is to assert that the values and principles embodied by the ANC are essential to the country's trajectory.

These values include a commitment to non-racialism, to social justice, to human dignity and to international solidarity. They are values that have been tested in struggle and refined in governance. They are not abstract ideals. They are practical guides to the organisation of society.

The real danger lies in the erosion of these values. If the ANC were to collapse as an idea, the vacuum would not necessarily be filled by formations that share its historical commitment to justice and unity. Instead, we may see the rise of narrow populism, of fragmented politics, of short-termism that prioritises immediate gain over long-term stability.



South Africa's challenges are real and pressing. Inequality remains stubbornly high. Unemployment continues to affect millions, particularly the youth. Service delivery is uneven. These are not trivial matters. They require decisive action and effective governance.

But they also require a stable political foundation. They require an overarching vision that holds the country together while these challenges are addressed. The ANC, despite its imperfections, continues to provide that foundation.

To argue that the ANC is too big to fail is therefore not an act of blind loyalty. It is a recognition of the organisation's historical and contemporary significance. The ANC is woven into the fabric of South Africa's existence. Its successes and failures are intertwined with those of the nation itself.

As I sat there in the quiet of that early morning, reflecting on these matters, I was struck by the parallels between personal and na-

tional reflection. Just as one must confront one's own shortcomings without losing sight of one's identity, so too must a nation engage critically with its institutions without discarding the very foundations upon which it is built.

The ANC must renew itself. It must address its weaknesses. It must reconnect with its core mission. These are urgent tasks. But they must be undertaken in a manner that preserves the essence of what the ANC represents.

For South Africa does not merely need the ANC as an electoral machine. It needs the ANC as an idea. An idea born of struggle, sustained by sacrifice and oriented towards the creation of a just and inclusive society.

And perhaps, in that moment of early morning exile, with the echoes of *uvukile uJesu* still lingering in the air, that truth revealed itself with a clarity that no amount of political debate could obscure.

# Pan-Africanism and Immigration: The aim is mutual cooperation not mutual dependence

■ By **YONELA DIKO**

**T**HE Idea of Pan-Africanism, as coined and championed by the Trinidadian Advocate, Henry Sylvester Williams, was premised, first and foremost, on self-reliance of Black people in all the countries of the world and mutual cooperation as they pursued common struggles of liberation and freedom from oppression and bondage from their respective corners of the world.

Williams wrote his Pan-African Ideals in the early 1900s, at a time where Africa and Black peoples of the world were still victims of slavery and colonialism and many were physically exploited to build the Industrial Revolution and the gold rush of the late 19th century creating the inhumane capitalist crusades of the Western white world.

Through the earlier battles, the resistance and frontier wars, the petitions and legal battles, self-education and self-empowerment, a call and a battle for a free black people in their own continent and in the diaspora became the driving force for many liberation movements that would bloom later.

The expectations were that once Africa is free, she would make it her number one priority, to cre-

ate a self-reliant continent of nations and a prosperous people that could walk tall amongst the League of Nations. This meant African leaders had a responsibility, post liberation, to create an environment conducive for a free black people to unleash their talents and pursue their own version of happiness.

This is important because any black leader, who would not, after gaining freedom from the oppressor, create an environment in their own countries for black people to prosper and be self-reliant, could not possibly make a claim to be Pan-Africanist. Leaders who persecuted their own

people and pushed them to scatter across the world as refugees and migrants could not, whatever claim they may make to their own blackness and struggle, call themselves Pan-African.

This is the message that then President of Botswana, Ian Khama, was trying to emphatically send to Robert Mugabe.

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, in 2013, at a SADC meeting just after incidents of xenophobic attacks in South Africa, decided to use his speaking opportunity to launch a scathing attack on the then South African President, Jacob Zuma, for what



*The First Pan-African Conference, organised by the Henry Sylvester Williams was held in London from 23 to 25 July 1900.*



he considered the South African government's failure to protect the millions of Zimbabwean citizens who had ironically fled Mugabe's own government and were now residing in South Africa.

Ian Khama did not consider it Pan-African for other African leaders to destroy their own countries and then when their citizens were a burden to South Africa, send harsh criticism in the name of Pan-Africanism and take no responsibility.

Khama said *"South Africa is not an employment bureau of the continent. If we solved our own problems in our own countries, South Africa would not be under strain from citizens from our own countries"*.

What was required was mutual solidarity, not for one country to be expected to solve the problems of the entire continent trying to prove its Pan-Africanism and black solidarity.

### **No African wants to leave their home**

According to the African Migration Trends by the Africa Center

for Strategic Studies in 2022, the primary reason for migration is conflict, followed by repressive governance, and then limited economic opportunities. According to the report, nine of the top 15 African countries of origin for migrants are in conflict.

The same report said there are 21 million Africans who live outside their home countries. This number is said to be under-counted because most African countries do not keep good records of migrants.

South Africa hosts a significant amount of those Africans who live outside their home country. These Africans would have preferred to stay home and make their own contribution to building their countries were it not for government repression, conflict and lack of economic opportunities.

In fact, there is a general belief in these countries that South Africa is well resourced and in a better position to absorb African migrants and offer them better prospects than their home countries.

This is curious because South Africa is the last African country to

receive freedom from white domination and is therefore a country in transition.

Black South Africans are still trying to build their own self-reliance in South Africa and would have expected support and cooperation from those African countries that received their freedoms earlier.

It is disheartening that South Africa, whose economy still rests in white hands, is now seen as the beacon of hope for all of Africa. This does not conjure well for Pan-Africanism since South Africa's economy has not yet built sufficient Black self-reliance for its own black citizens and is certainly not the powerhouse of black economic power.

The connotations of all of Africa looking to South Africa to be its saviour whose economy is still largely in white hands, reflects badly for those African countries who were liberated more than a half a century ago. Africa cannot be dependent on South Africa's white economic power. That is against the spirit of Pan-Africanism.

It is therefore not correct to accuse South Africans of not being

Pan-African when they complain about being overburdened by fellow Africans who are flooding South Africa. It is in-fact fellow African leaders, some of whom continue to sow instability and conflict in their countries who are not Pan-African for it is impossible to build self-reliance for Africa, and patriotism for its citizens, when their countries are in a perpetual state of crisis and disintegration.

South Africa must therefore continue its role of conflict resolutions in Africa and of encouraging regional and continental trade to spread economic opportunities. That is what Pan-Africanism demands.

South Africa cannot open its borders to 21 million Africans who live outside their home countries to prove that it is Pan-African. Ensuring that Black South Africans are self-reliant in their own country is South Africa's best contribution to Pan-Africanism.

Self-reliance is the best contribution that all other African countries can make to Pan-Africanism. Mutual cooperation of prospering African countries will make Africa a superpower of the future world.

The South African government, since it is the one that is burdened by runaway immigration must convene all the countries with the most immigrants in the country to make this point very clear on mutual cooperation and not mutual dependence.

These African countries cannot just seat back and watch South Africa being rundown by their citizens only to react after the fact claiming victimhood and xenophobia.

More practically, South Africa

needs an Immigration Law Enforcement Agency with a specific task as to ensure immigration laws are respected and obeyed failure which immediate deportation must take place.

To reiterate Ian Khama's words, "South Africa is not an employ-

ment bureau of the continent. If we solved our own problems in our own countries, South Africa would not be under strain from citizens from our own countries".

**Yonela Diko** is Author of the book "Ramaphosa – The Long Game".

## I Am An African

I am an African.

I am born of the peoples of the continent of Africa.

The pain of the violent conflict that the peoples of Liberia, and of Somalia, of the Sudan, of Burundi and Algeria is a pain I also bear.

The dismal shame of poverty, suffering and human degradation of my continent is a blight that we share.

The blight on our happiness that derives from this and from our drift to the periphery of the ordering of human affairs leaves us in a persistent shadow of despair.

This is a savage road to which nobody should be condemned. The evolution of humanity says that Africa reaffirms that she is continuing her rise from the ashes.

Whatever the setbacks of the moment, nothing can stop us now! Whatever the difficulties, Africa shall be at peace!

*Thabo Mbeki*

[Adoption of RSA Constitution Bill Statement of Deputy President TM Mbeki, on behalf of the ANC, on the occasion of the adoption by the Constitutional Assembly of The Republic of South Africa Constitution Bill 1996, 8 May 1996]



# REMEMBERING SOLOMON "KALUSHI" MAHLANGU

10 JULY 1956 – 6 APRIL 1979

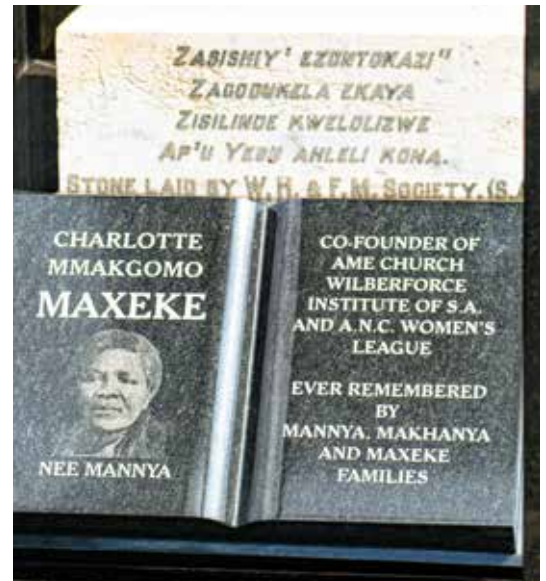






# REMEMBERING Charlotte Manna Maseke

7 April 1871 – 16 October 1939







# REMEMBERING CHRIS THEMBSILE HANI

*Chris Thembisile Hani*

28 June 1942 – 10 April 1993



*Celebrating*  
**50 YEARS OF THE  
SAHWARI ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

11–17 April 2026

Source: *SA History Online, O'Malley Archives, Africa Today/Yesterday, The Africa Factbook and Amazwi SA Museum of Literature*

### 11 April 1843 The Gambia and Sierra Leone separated

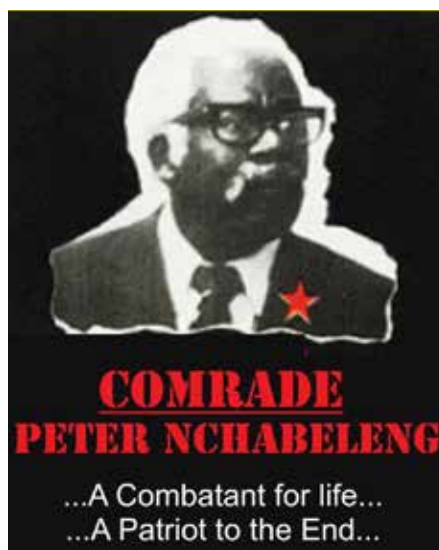
Britain separates Gambia from Sierra Leone. The Gambia was first colonized by Portugal, where it formed a key part of the Portuguese slave trade, and later annexed as a province by the British.

### 11 April 1961 Nigeria bans all trade with Apartheid South Africa

Nigeria banned all trade with South Africa, as part of the international sanctions campaign against apartheid. In early 1960, Nigeria had decided to ban all imports from South Africa, after the Sharpeville massacre.

### 11 April 1986 Peter Nchabeleng passed on

Peter Nchabeleng (1928-1986), president of United Democratic Front in Northern Transvaal, a Robben island political prisoner and member of Sebatakgomo died in police cells in Schoonoord, Lebowa, after being tortured while in custody. Nchabeleng was active in the Sekhukune rural revolts, the ANC underground entity, and was arrested and sentenced to eight years on Robben Island. After his release, he continued this work, becoming UDF Northern Transvaal President in 1986, and active in Umkhonto weSizwe structures, for which he stood trial with Tokyo Sexwale



and others in the famous Pretoria 12 terrorism trial. He played an important role to assist with the formation of youth structures in the north, assisting youth leaders such as Peter Mokaba, France Mohlala, Ephraim Mogale and his son, Elleck Nchabeleng.

### 11 April 2001 Ellis Park soccer tragedy

43 soccer fans that came to watch the Soweto derby between Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates were crushed to death, following a stampede at Ellis Park Stadium in Johannesburg, where the match was held.

### 11 April 2007 San artist "Vetkat" Regopstaan Kruiper passed on

Regopstaan Kruiper, also known as *Vetkat*, was a prolific artist. He was born at the camp Twee Rivieren in the Kalahari Gemsbok

National Park (now Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park). The Kruipers are from the Khomani who live in the Southern Kalahari, close to the National Park. Vetkat's father, a well-respected man was also a versatile artist and healer. Vetkat had many artistic skills including music. His main passion however was for the veld and animals. Despite having no formal training, Vetkat rose to fame as a fine artist taking his inspiration from his cultural heritage and the desert he grew up in. Vetkat's art was lauded both nationally and internationally.

### 12 April 1962 St Boniface School in Kimberley opened

St. Boniface School opened its doors in Galeshewe township, Kimberley and Edward Skosana became the first African teacher at the school.

### 12 April 1969 Bafana captain Lucas Radebe born



Lucas Radebe, South Africa's celebrated soccer legend was born

in Diepkloof, Soweto. At age of 15 his parents sent him to live and go to school in Bophuthatswana. Soccer became a favourite pastime and his talent was soon spotted by Kaizer Chiefs scouts, who signed him up. He went on to become a successful soccer player both locally and abroad. Radebe captained Bafana Bafana, Kaizer Chiefs and the UK's Leeds United. Radebe is the first South African to have captained two World Cup finals, these were in France in 1998 and South Korea and Japan in 2002. He received a Master of Social Science *honoris causa* from UCT for his humanitarian work with various educational, social and charitable initiatives in South Africa.

### 12 April 1991

#### ANC unveils constitutional guidelines

The ANC introduced its Constitutional Principles for a Democratic South Africa in Johannesburg, ahead of the start of the negotiation forum CODESA. Many of these principles were eventually enshrined in the Interim constitution and later the 1996 Constitution, laying the basis for a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

### 12 April 2019

#### OR Tambo School of Leadership is launched

The ANC in many national conferences since 1990 resolved to form a national political school, but it only came to fruition when the OR Tambo School of Leadership was formally launched on 12 April 2019 by President Ramaphosa in Midrand, Gauteng. The programmes and courses of the ORTSL built on a rich tradition of political education in the ANC and mass democratic movement,



adapting to new possibilities provided by technology. Increasingly, completion of the School courses are a prerequisite for all candidates standing for leadership and as public representatives in the ANC. Former ANC secretary general and deputy president, Cde Kgalema Motlanthe is the first chair of the board of trustees of the OR Tambo School of Leadership, and NEC member David Masedo its first principal. The ANC, since its unbanning, and in numerous conferences had resolved to launch a political school.

### 13 April 1935

#### Artist Sydney Khumalo born



South African artist Sydney Alex Khumalo (also documented as Kumalo), was born in Johannesburg. He began studying at Polly Street Art Centre in 1952 and

worked there under Cecil Skotnes and later Edoardo Villa. He was an art instructor at the centre until 1964, when he became full-time artist. In 1967 he visited the United States of America and Europe as a guest of USSALEP (United States/South Africa Leadership Exchange Programme), West Germany in 1979 and the USA again in 1985. He exhibited numerous times from 1958-1988, won several awards and completed seven commissions.

### 13 April 2002

#### Court settles Ethiopian-Eritrean border

The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, the Netherlands, defined the 1 000-km shared border between Ethiopia and Eritrea, ending a dispute that sparked one of Africa's bloodiest wars (1998-2000) between the two nations. Although the war ended, hostilities between the two countries continued, dubbed as a no-war-no-peace situation. In 2018, new Ethiopian Prime minister Abiy Ahmed made overtures that led to a peace agreement between the neighbours.

### 13 April 2011

#### Andries Tatane killed by police during protest

Andries Tatane, a community activist was shot and killed by police with rubber bullets during a service delivery protest in Ficksburg in the Free State. None of the police officers charged with his death were found guilty.

### 14 April 1886

#### Artist Maggie Laubser born

Maggie Laubser, award-winning SA painter and print-maker was born on the farm in Malmesbury.

Along with Irma Stern, Laubser is regarded as one of the pioneers of Expressionism in South Africa. Laubser was a member of the South African Society of Artists (SASA) and received many art awards during her career. Maggie Laubser died on 17 May 1973, according to accounts "with an unfinished canvas on her easel."

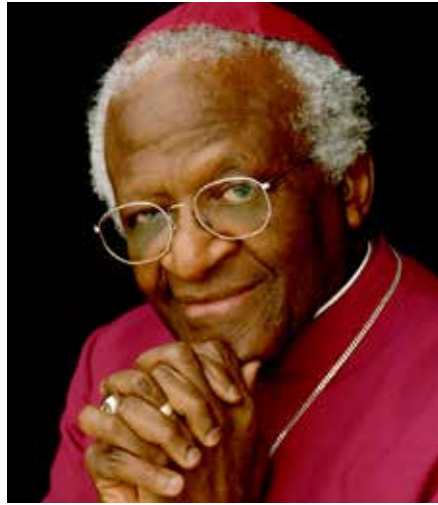
**14 April 1970**  
**UN Special Committee**  
**calls for ban of Racist SA**  
**sports**



The United Nations Special Committee on Apartheid urged a boycott of all South African racist sporting organizations and supported the African bloc's proposal to exclude the country from both the Munich Olympics and the Olympic Movement itself. Subsequently, on 15 May 1970, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) extended South Africa's ban. This resulted in the country's exclusion from the tragic 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

**14 April 1986**  
**Rev. Desmond Tutu**  
**elected as Archbishop**

The Most Rev. Desmond Mpilo Tutu was elected Bishop of Cape Town, thereby becoming Archbishop of South Africa, heading



the Anglican Church of South Africa. He was installed at St Georges Cathedral, Cape Town in September 1986. This charismatic but humble spiritual leader was the first Black person to hold this office. He occupied the position until 1996, when he retired to chair the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

**14 April 2014**  
**Chibok girls seized**

Boko Haram gunned down girls aged between 12 and 17 from the Government Girls Secondary School in the remote town of Chibok in northeastern Borno state, Nigeria on April 14. The girls were forced from their dormitories onto trucks and driven into the bush. Some 57 of them managed to flee in a daring escape. Over the years, some of the 219 girls escaped, were rescued and exchanged for Boko Haram rebels. Over one hundred of the girls still remain unaccounted for.

**15 April 1906**  
**Pixley Seme received**  
**award for Regeneration**  
**of Africa speech**

The first African student to enroll at US Columbia University, Pixley ka iSaka Seme was awarded the university's highest oratorical



award and was profiled in the New York Times for his speech, *The Regeneration of Africa*. Seme passed the bar in 1910 to become a lawyer and was one of the founders of the SA Native Congress in 1912.

**15 April 1912**  
**SA Weather Bureau formed**

After the Union of South Africa was formed in 1910, the Weather Services of the four provinces were merged into the Union Weather Service, which issued its first weather forecast by AG Howard on this day from Cape Town.

**15 April 1950**  
**Taliep Petersen born**



Taliep Petersen, renowned composer, singer and director was born in District Six, Cape Town. He first sang at age six during the annual New Year's Cape Coon

festival, performed in musicals and went on to direct such musicals as *District Six*, *Kats and the Kings*, *Poison and Ghoema*; and also created a sitcom *Alie Barber*. He passed on in 2006.

### 15 April 1978

#### Matthews Motshwarateu, breaks national 5,000m record



Black athlete Matthews Motshwarateu, recently allowed into the racially exclusive SA Amateur Athletics Union, breaks the national 5,000m record in Stellenbosch, so entering the annals of South African athletics.

### 16 April 1867

#### Eureka Diamond discovered by children in Hopetown

The Eureka diamond, which weighed over 21 carats, was discovered by two children in Hopetown, N Cape. This started the diamond rush of Kimberley and the beginning of the current minerals complex in South Africa. The then governor of the Cape bought it and took it to London, where it remained for 100 years. In 1967, De Beers bought the Eureka diamond back and it is still on display at the Kimberley Museum.

### 16 April 1924

#### Inji Aflatoun born

Egyptian painter, activist and



women's rights champion was born in Cairo. A pioneer of Egyptian modern art, she was a Marxist and joined Egypt's Communist Party at the age of 18. She founded a league of university women and represented Egypt in global women's conferences. She was the author of political pamphlets such as *Eighty Million Women with Us* (1948) and *We Egyptian Women* (1949) in Arabic, linking class and gender oppression, and connecting both to imperialist oppression. She held exhibitions of her paintings during the 60s and 70s in Rome, Paris, Dresden, Warsaw, Moscow, Sofia, New Delhi, and Prague, and collections of her works was displayed at the Amir Taz Palace in Cairo. Inji Aflatoun died in Cairo on 17 April 1989 at the age of 65.

### 16 April 1976

#### Alek Wek born



Iconic Sudanese supermodel and designer Alek Wek was born in Wau, in a Dinka community. She fled the civil war at age of 14 with her family to the UK, where she enrolled at the London College of Fashion and studied Fashion Business and Technology. In 1995, at the age of 18 she was discovered by a fashion scout and rose to become a global icon, changing perceptions of what constitute beauty. She was named Model of the year by MTV in 1997 and was the first African model to appear on the cover of Elle magazine.

### 16 April 1988

#### Home Affairs Minister warns Community newspapers



Community newspapers formed by anti-apartheid activists and journalists, Grassroots, Saamstaan and Out of Step officially were warned by Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha, that the contents of their publications were "causing a delay in the termination of the state of emergency."

### 16 April 2004

#### Early Stone Age Jewelry found

Jewelry dating back 75,000 years ago was found in the Blombos cave, overlooking the Indian Ocean. It is believed to be

the oldest known jewelry found. The Stone Age jewelry is a set of beads with holes drilled into it, as part of a necklace. The discovery is believed to be the oldest known jewelry, as the beads are more than 30,000 years older than any other known human jewelry.

### 16 April 2019 Rare Blue Diamond unveiled

The state run Okavango Diamond Company unveiled the 20.46 carat blue diamond in Botswana on this day. The gem is one of the rarest, and a once in a lifetime found a year earlier at the Orapa mine. The Botswana Okavango Blue diamond is on show at the American Museum of Natural History, on loan from its home country.

### 17 April 1658 School for slaves open in the Cape

Jan van Riebeeck, commander at the Cape, wrote in his diary that a school for slaves had been started, with Pieter van der Stael as the first teacher. To reward pupils (mainly adults) for their presence, they received a glass of brandy and two inches of tobacco each day. The aim of the school was to increase the usefulness of the slaves to their owners. A second school, attended by 12 White children, four slaves and one Khoi-Khoi, was opened in 1661.

### 17 April 1954 FEDSAW launched and first Women's Charter adopted

The Federations of South African Women (FEDSAW) was formed as the first non-racial women's movement. FEDSAW was the brainchild of trade unionist Ray



Alexander, working together with women such as Lilian Ngoyi, Amina Cachalia, Hilda Bernstein, Dora Tamana, Ruth Mompati, Helen Joseph, Sophie de Bruyn and Lily Diedericks to bring together women's organisations. The FEDSAW launching conference adopted the first Women's Charter as a common platform against apartheid, for women's equality, education, equal work for equal pay and a better life for all children. FEDSAW organized the historic march to the Union building of 9 August 1956.

### 17 April 1958 Belgium opens a Human Zoo

On this day, Belgium staged the opening of a human zoo at the 1958 world fair in Brussels, "a glittering 200-day celebration of postwar social, cultural and technological advances. It also had a live display of black men, women and children from the Congo in "native conditions" laid on for the education and amusement of white Europeans. It was the world's last "human zoo", the first being in 1897, when King Leopold II imported 267 Congolese for display.

### 17 April 1986 Author Bessie Head passes away



Bessie Emery Head, author of *A Question of Power*, *Maru*, *The Cardinal* and a book of short stories about her adopted country, *Botswana The Collector of Treasurers*, passed away in Serowe. Head was born in 1937 in a mental institution in Pietermaritzburg, to a white mother and a black father. Bessie landed up in the foster care system, trained as a teacher and married very early. She gave up teaching, and started working as a journalist, writing for the Golden City Post and Drum. Head left South Africa for Botswana with her son in 1964. Here she worked as a lecturer, eventually gaining Botswana citizenship in 1979, living in Serowe, and writing until her passing on this day.

# INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

11–17 April 2026

Source: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org), [www.au.int](http://www.au.int), *The Africa Fact Book (2020)*, [www.daysoftheyear.com](http://www.daysoftheyear.com)



## 11 April World Parkinson's Day

Parkinson's disease is a progressive disorder that affects the nervous system and the parts of the body controlled by the nerves. Parkinson's is different for everyone. Different symptoms, different experiences. Diagnosis is scary and there's currently no cure. The theme for World Parkinson's Day 2026 is **Bridge the Care Gap** reminding the world to provide better support for people with Parkinson's.

## 12 April International Day of Human Space Flight



12 April 1961 was the date of the first human space flight, carried out by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen

in the Vostok 1 spaceship. This opened the way for space exploration.

## 12 April International Day of Pink

This day uses the color pink to raise awareness and fight against bullying, discrimination, homophobia, transphobia, and transmisogyny across the world.

## 15 April World Art Day

World Art Day is a celebration to promote the development, diffusion and enjoyment of art, on the birthday of Leonardo da Vinci. The day helps to reinforce the links between artistic creations and society, encourage greater awareness of the diversity of artistic expressions and highlight the contribution of artists to sustainable development. It is also an occasion to shine a light on arts education in schools, as culture can pave the way for inclusive and equitable education.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**16 April**

### World Voice Day



World Voice Day (WVD) is a worldwide annual event that takes place on April 16 devoted to the celebration of the phenomenon of voice. The aim is to demonstrate the enormous importance of the voice in the daily lives of all people. Voice is a critical aspect of effective and healthy communication, and World Voice Day brings global awareness to the need for preventing voice problems, rehabilitating the deviant or sick voice, training the artistic voice, and researching the function and application of voice.

**16 April**

### Save the Elephant Day

There are currently three species of elephant spread across Africa and Asia: the African bush elephant, the African forest elephant and the Asian elephant. Huge and with highly adept trunks, these creatures are intelligent, social and largely gentle giants. They display a range of emotions such as joy, anger and grief and live in complex social structures – matri-

archal herds for the female cows and calves and a solitary lifestyle or bachelor herds for the male bulls. The ivory trade and human expansionism have resulted in the numbers of elephants fast reducing.

**17 April**

### International Haiku Poetry Day

Observed annually on April 17, National Haiku Poetry Day encourages all to try their hand in creativity. Haiku poetry is a form of Japanese poetry that is non-rhyming and usually consists of 3 lines with a syllable pattern of 5-7-5. Usually, an element of nature, a season, a moment of beauty, or an individual experience inspires haiku poems. Sensory language is used to capture a feeling, image, or moment.

**17 April**

### World Hemophilia Day

Hemophilia is a very rare disease where a person's blood does not clot due to the absence of the necessary blood-clotting proteins. They therefore bleed for a long time and this can become uncontrollable if it's a large injury. It is particularly a concern if the bleeding happens internally, because it can damage organs and become life-threatening. The disease is genetic and is treatable. This year's theme is: "**Access for all: Women and girls bleed too**". Women and girls with bleeding disorders (WGBDs) are still underdiagnosed and underserved. The global bleeding disorders community has the power – and the responsibility – to change this. Through recognition, diagnosis, treatment, and care, the quality of life of women and girls will improve, and the bleeding disorders community will become stronger.

“The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.”



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